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Maryland Monthly Labor Review

SEPTEMBER, 1993

Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
Mark L. Wasserman, Secretary

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Employment moved up in September and the number of jobless workers declined, cutting Maryland's unemployment rate by 0.5 percentage points to 6.2 percent. The benefit of this decline was evident across the state, with twenty-two of Maryland's local jurisdictions reporting lower jobless rates in September.

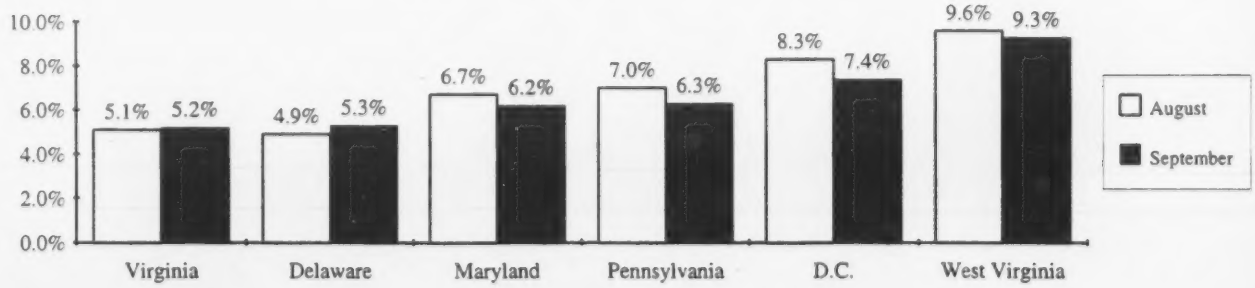
During September, more than 10,300 jobseekers entered the labor market. The number of employed grew by 25,155 to 2,474,375, a gain which effectively erased the seasonal loss experienced last month and raised employment to its highest level in a full year. Total unemployment, posting its largest over the month decline since April 1992, fell by just over 14,800 persons to 162,188. Last September, about 4,400 fewer Marylanders were employed and 6.5 percent of the labor force, or 172,270 persons, were without a job.

Seasonal economics tend to play an important role in September's labor market movements. Summer workers leave their jobs and exit the labor market while workers in education re-enter as the fall semester begins. The movement of summer workers tends to be the overriding trend, causing both the labor force and employment levels to decline. This year, however, the summer build-up was less of a determining factor because of restricted job availability. As a result, the return of education workers to the job market carried September's movement, uplifting both the labor force and employment.

	September 1993	August 1993	September 1992	August 1992
(Data not seasonally adjusted)				
Civilian Labor Force	2,636,563	2,626,245	2,642,260	2,684,880
Total Employment	2,474,375	2,449,220	2,469,990	2,510,968
Total Unemployment	162,188	177,025	172,270	173,912
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.7	6.5	6.5
National Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.5	7.2	7.3

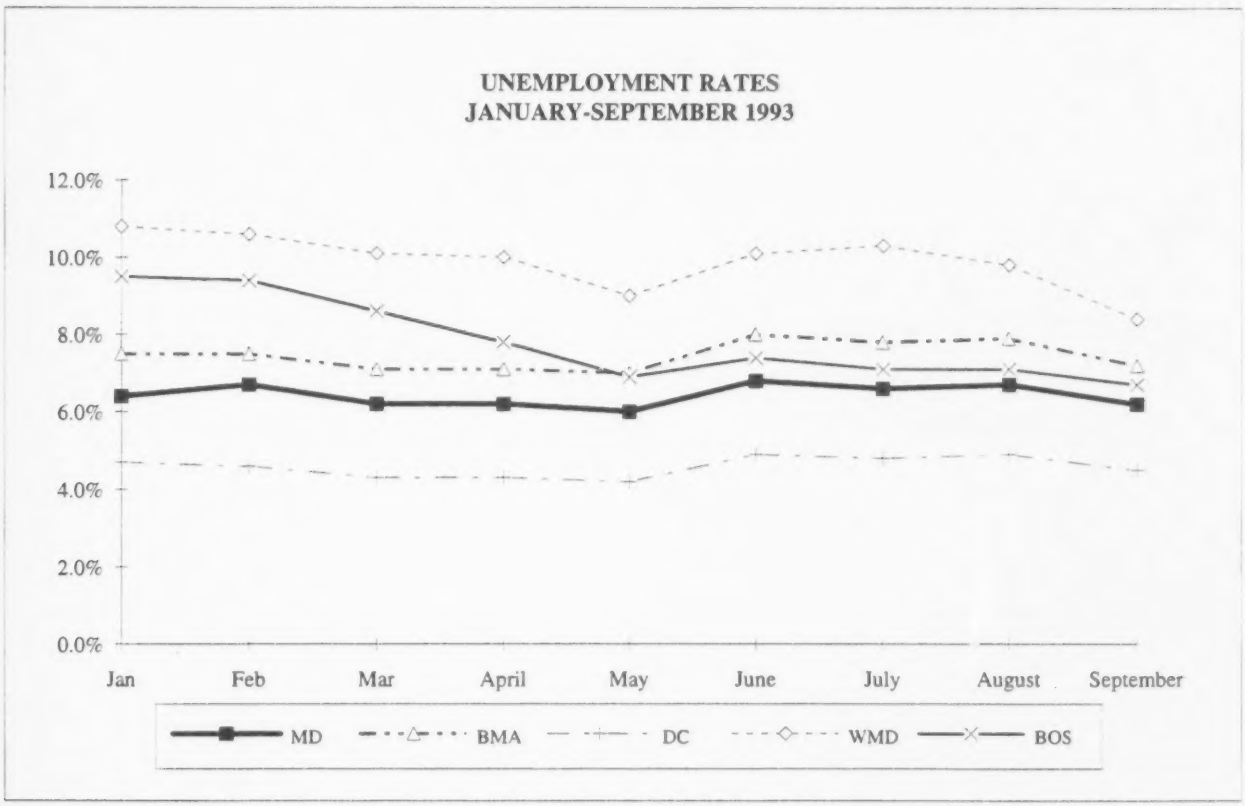
Maryland was not the only state in the region to report a jobless decline during September. Unemployment rates were, in fact, lower in each of the member states with the exception of Delaware and Virginia. Maryland, while retaining its third place position in the ranking, was faced with a close contender in Pennsylvania where joblessness fell to 6.3 percent in September.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEIGHBORING STATES
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1993



TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - MARYLAND AND REGIONS

	SEPTEMBER 1993		AUGUST 1993	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
MARYLAND	162,188	6.2	177,025	6.7
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	88,879	7.2	97,888	7.9
MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS	48,086	4.5	51,291	4.9
WESTERN MARYLAND	9,484	8.4	11,011	9.8
BALANCE OF STATE	15,740	6.7	16,836	7.1



REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

In the Baltimore Metro Area, employment expanded by about 5,200 persons, rising to 1,142,866 in September. This gain, when coupled with a shrinkage in the number of jobseeekers in the labor market, helped to lower the jobless count by just over 9,000 persons to 88,879 and push the unemployment rate down by 0.7 percentage points to 7.2 percent in September. Jobless rates were lower in each of the local jurisdictions during September. Baltimore City's rate, while remaining the highest in both the region and in the state, dropped by 0.7 percentage points to 10.8 percent—a decline effected by a combination of rising employment and a reduction in the number of jobseekers. Within the BMA, recalls by local boards of education and at private colleges and universities helped to downplay, but not totally compensate for, seasonal losses reported by private sector employers.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

Just over three-fourths of the statewide employment gain during September was centered in the D.C. Suburban Area. Employment in the region grew by just over 19,100 persons, rising above the one million mark for the first time since August 1992. This employment gain helped to accommodate a growth in the number of jobseekers entering the regional labor market and, at the same time, to ease unemployment down by about 3,200 persons. With fewer persons on the unemployment rolls, the regional unemployment rate inched down from 4.9 percent to 4.5 percent. Locally, the largest movements were reported in Calvert and Frederick counties where jobless rates declined by a full percentage point or better to 4.2 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively. In Calvert, education recalls helped to ease unemployment down while, in Frederick, manufacturing recalls removed workers from the unemployment rolls.

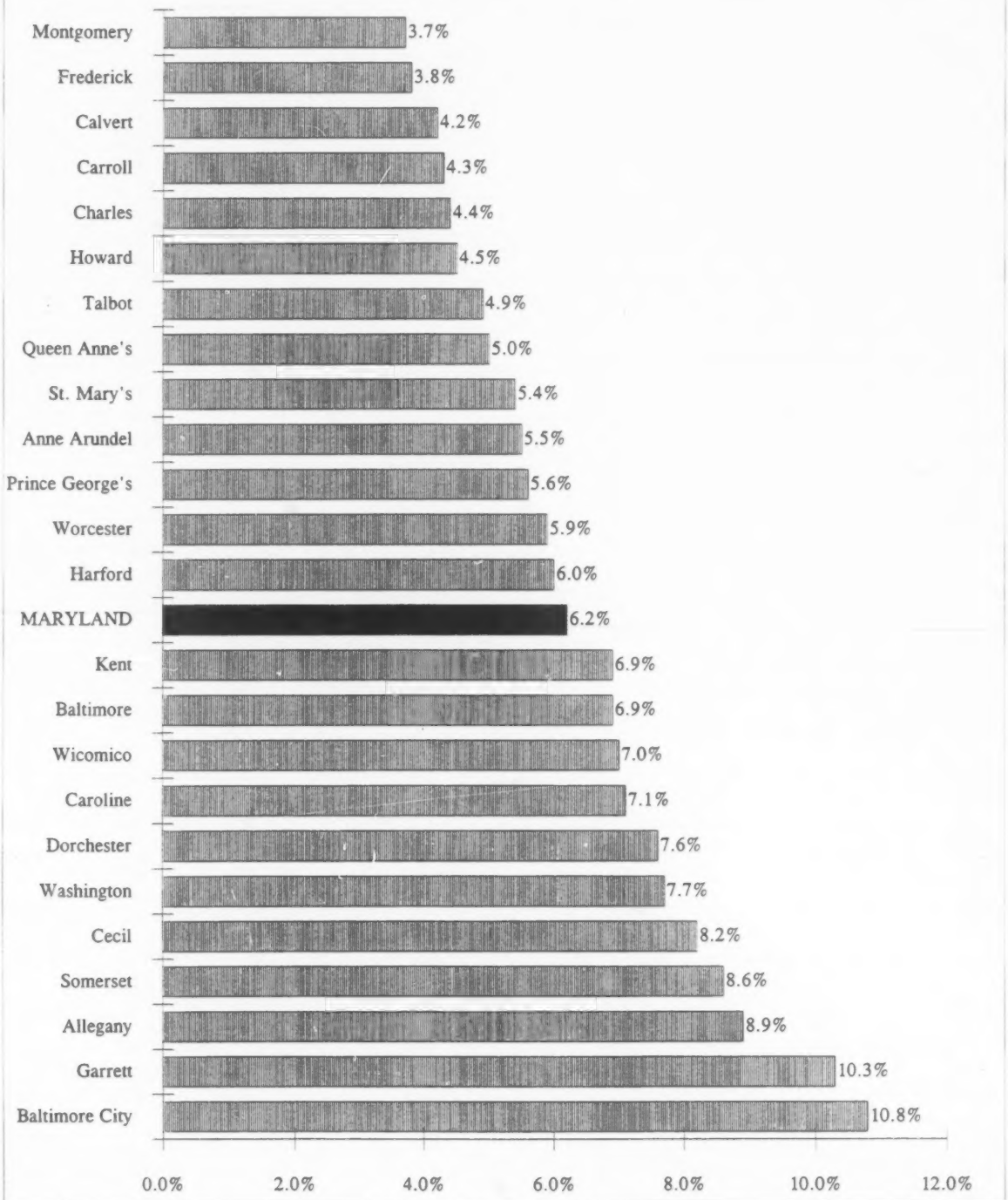
WESTERN MARYLAND

Unemployment in the Western region, while remaining the highest in the state, declined by more than a full percentage point over the month to 8.4 percent. Employment in the area rose by nearly 1,600 persons to 102,807. This employment gain, which was shared by both Allegany and Washington counties, resulted in hefty jobless declines. In Allegany, about 500 fewer workers were unemployed in September, pushing the jobless rate down to 8.9 percent, while, in Washington, just 7.7 percent of the labor force were reported as unemployed, down from August's rate of 9.0 percent. In Garrett County, unemployment also fell from 11.2 percent to 10.3 percent—a decline resulting from the withdrawal of workers from the job market. During September, the region's industrial payrolls responded to recall activity in education and sporadic hiring in general merchandise stores, business, health and social services.

BALANCE OF STATE

While employment in the region declined, the withdrawal of jobseekers from the labor market absorbed this decline and helped to ease unemployment down from 7.1 percent to 6.7 percent. The region's employment reduction reflected the impact of seasonal economics in Caroline, Somerset and Worcester counties. In both Caroline and Somerset counties, layoffs in food processing, while reducing employment potential, failed to push unemployment higher. Worcester's job market, however, was visibly affected by the decline in tourism trade. Unemployment in the county began its upward trend, rising from 4.9 percent to 5.9 percent. Increases of this magnitude, however, are not unusual in this highly seasonal county. During September, seasonal declines reduced the job count in a number of industries; reductions were foremost in trade, particularly in restaurants.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES--SEPTEMBER 1993



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
SEPTEMBER 1993

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST*	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST*	SEPTEMBER	AUGUST*	SEPT.	AUG.*	SEPT.1992
MARYLAND	2,636,563	2,626,245	2,474,375	2,449,220	162,188	177,025	6.2	6.7	6.5
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,231,745	1,235,545	1,142,866	1,137,657	88,879	97,888	7.2	7.9	7.5
BALTIMORE CITY	332,576	333,678	296,650	295,297	35,926	38,381	10.8	11.5	11.0
ANNE ARUNDEL	227,883	228,645	215,455	214,473	12,428	14,172	5.5	6.2	5.5
BALTIMORE	376,107	376,987	350,326	348,729	25,781	28,258	6.9	7.5	7.2
CARROLL	67,196	67,540	64,277	63,984	2,919	3,556	4.3	5.3	5.4
HARFORD	97,933	98,378	92,019	91,599	5,914	6,779	6.0	6.9	6.6
HOWARD	112,285	112,589	107,258	106,769	5,027	5,820	4.5	5.2	4.5
QUEEN ANNE'S	17,764	17,726	16,881	16,805	883	921	5.0	5.2	5.6
D. C. AREA	1,058,844	1,042,921	1,010,758	991,630	48,086	51,291	4.5	4.9	4.9
CALVERT	29,316	29,140	28,077	27,546	1,239	1,594	4.2	5.5	5.7
CHARLES	55,690	54,955	53,267	52,259	2,423	2,696	4.4	4.9	5.4
FREDERICK	85,585	84,821	82,351	80,792	3,234	4,029	3.8	4.8	5.0
MONTGOMERY	448,603	441,074	432,080	423,903	16,523	17,171	3.7	3.9	3.8
PRINCE GEORGE'S	439,650	432,932	414,983	407,130	24,667	25,802	5.6	6.0	6.0
WESTERN MARYLAND	112,291	112,239	102,807	101,228	9,484	11,011	8.4	9.8	9.0
ALLEGANY	33,640	33,015	30,634	29,462	3,006	3,553	8.9	10.8	9.9
GARRETT	15,030	15,564	13,477	13,822	1,553	1,742	10.3	11.2	9.6
WASHINGTON	63,621	63,660	58,696	57,944	4,925	5,716	7.7	9.0	8.5
BALANCE OF STATE	233,684	235,541	217,944	218,705	15,740	16,836	6.7	7.1	7.3
CAROLINE	15,220	15,324	14,133	14,168	1,087	1,156	7.1	7.5	7.2
CECIL	39,956	39,770	36,675	36,235	3,281	3,535	8.2	8.9	8.6
DORCHESTER	17,720	17,611	16,375	16,107	1,345	1,504	7.6	8.5	9.5
KENT	10,432	10,099	9,709	9,401	723	698	6.9	6.9	7.0
ST. MARY'S	48,576	48,463	45,941	45,588	2,635	2,875	5.4	5.9	6.1
SOMERSET	13,584	13,988	12,421	12,720	1,163	1,268	8.6	9.1	7.9
TALBOT	18,320	18,179	17,423	17,205	897	974	4.9	5.4	5.7
WICOMICO	43,738	42,588	40,667	39,221	3,071	3,367	7.0	7.9	8.0
WORCESTER	26,138	29,519	24,600	28,060	1,538	1,459	5.9	4.9	6.1
UNITED STATES**	127,858,000	129,472,000	119,730,000	121,002,000	8,128,000	8,470,000	6.4	6.5	7.2

*Estimates for the state are revised.
**Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS BY PLACE OF WORK

Maryland's industrial payrolls, pulled down by seasonal declines in August, headed back up in September, led almost exclusively by recall activity at educational facilities. The reopening of schools uplifted employment in both the government and transportation sectors. Gains in these two industries helped to override seasonal losses in the remaining sectors and yielded an overall industry increase of 10,100 jobs over the month.

The government sector was the seasonal engine of September's upturn, producing nearly 18,000 jobs over the month. The public sector, while rising overall, got caught up in its own balancing act. At the federal level, employment declined by 800 jobs, with cuts in defense accounting for about three-fourths of the drop. The visibility of these layoffs and other reductions in state and local run summer youth and outdoor maintenance programs was, however, obscured by recalls in education as noncontractual staff returned to their jobs and work study programs resumed.

Education recalls also had a spin-off effect on the transportation industry where about 1,900 jobs were added during September. While trucking and water transportation reported slight upturns, "other" transportation, the component which includes companies providing school bus services, was the central source of activity over the month.

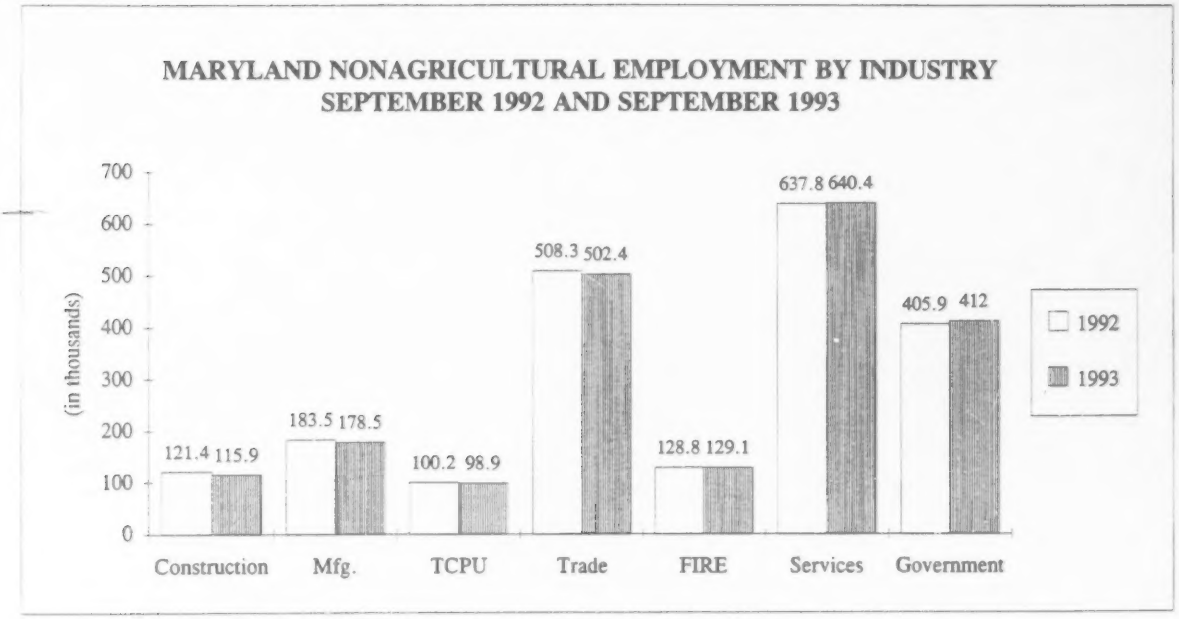
The construction industry took a seasonal hit during September, losing about 2,100 jobs. Declining employment in the construction trades is, however, the norm for this time of year. Employment among heavy trade contractors held steady, making general building and special trade contractors the monthly losers. Special trade contractors posted the largest drop, with about three out of every four jobs lost centered in this individual industry group. On a regional basis, companies in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area assumed a large portion of the statewide decline.

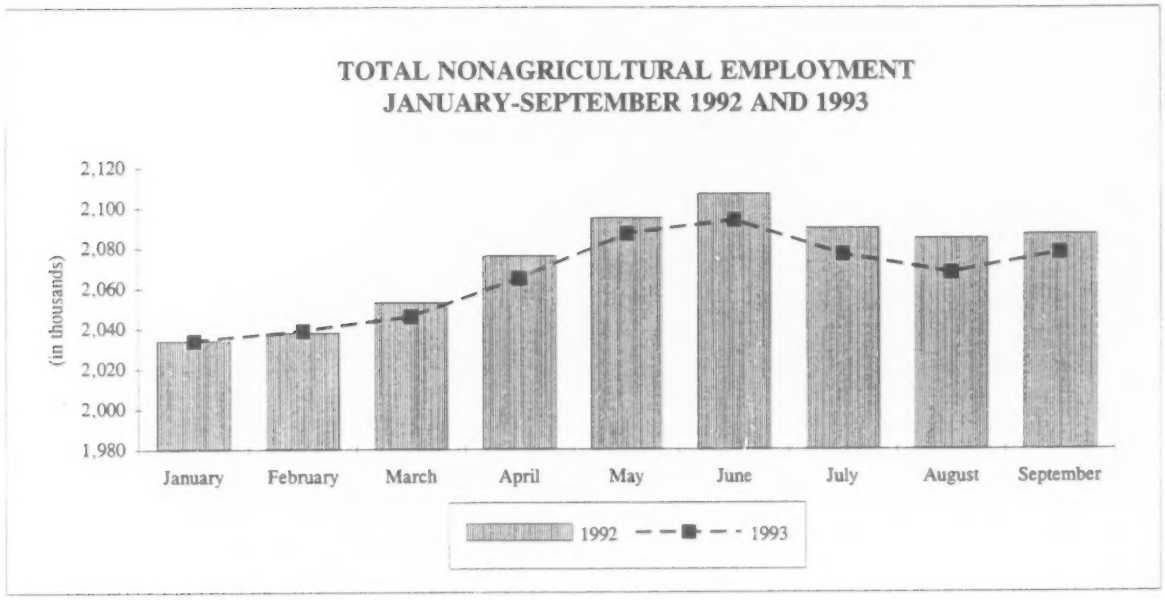
The finance, insurance and real estate sector reported about 900 fewer jobs in September, with reductions occurring across the board. Even with this decline, this combined industry group is one of only three industries with an employment level above its year ago figure. During September, the insurance industry reported the largest drop—its first decline since February 1993.

In both the trade and services industries, the summer employment continued to dissipate, lowering industry totals by 3,500 jobs and 2,200 jobs, respectively. In trade, the decline was confined to retail establishments where seasonal layoffs lowered employment at restaurants and to a lesser degree at building material, food and apparel stores. Several of the services industries lowered their employment after peak summer months. Amusements and membership organizations, reporting almost comparable declines, were the biggest losers, followed by hotels and agricultural services. The deficit created by layoffs in these industries was cut somewhat by recall activity at private colleges and universities and hiring in business services.

The downward movement in the manufacturing industry during September reflected both seasonal economics and a general weakness in the industry. Employers in this sector scaled back their payrolls by about 700 jobs. The largest drop, reflecting a seasonal reduction, occurred in food processing. Transportation equipment also declined, a drop reflecting the permanent layoff of 250+ workers at one single facility. These and some smaller losses in printing, chemicals and electronic equipment were tempered somewhat by recalls and hiring in industrial machinery and stone, chemicals and fabricated metals manufacturing.

Concurrent with the overall decline in manufacturing, workweeks were shortened by 0.2 of an hour to 41.0 hours. This reduction, however, failed to lower weekly paychecks due to an increase in hourly payrates from $12.74 to $12.96. Production workers in durable goods industries, unaffected by a scheduling cutback, continued to work 42.5 hours, earning a weekly salary of $584.38 in September, up from $580.98. In nondurable goods, five of the six reporting industries had workweek reductions, resulting in a 0.7 of an hour decline in the nondurables workweek. Although working fewer hours, production workers in nondurable industries also earned more due to a 2.6 percent hike in hourly rate.





NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
SEPTEMBER 1993

Industry	Sept. 1993	August** 1993	Sept. 1992	Percent Change Sept. 1992-Sept. 1993
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,078.4	2,068.3	2,087.1	-0.4
Goods Producing	295.6	298.4	306.1	-3.4
Mining	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0
Construction	115.9	118.0	121.4	-4.5
Heavy Construction	14.8	14.8	14.6	1.4
Manufacturing	178.5	179.2	183.5	-2.7
Durable Goods	86.2	86.1	90.5	-4.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3.3	3.4	3.4	-2.9
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	6.6	6.5	6.6	0.0
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	2.4	2.3	2.4	0.0
Primary Metal Industries	8.2	8.2	9.2	-10.9
Blast Furnaces	6.7	6.7	7.6	-11.8
Fabricated Metal Products	8.5	8.4	8.6	-1.2
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	3.3	3.3	3.4	-2.9
Other Fabricated Metal Products (Inc.342,343,345-349)	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0
Industrial Machinery	14.9	14.6	14.8	0.7
Refrigeration & Service Machinery	2.2	1.9	1.8	22.2
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment (Inc. 352-357)	8.8	8.8	8.9	-1.1
Electronic Equipment	12.2	12.3	12.8	-4.7
Communications Equipment	4.6	4.6	4.5	2.2
Electronic Component	2.8	2.9	3.1	-9.7
Other Electronic Equipment	4.8	4.8	5.2	-7.7
Transportation Equipment	10.3	10.7	11.8	-12.7
Motor Vehicles	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.3
Other Transportation (Inc. 372-375,379)	3.1	3.4	4.1	-24.4
Instruments & Related	17.3	17.3	18.3	-5.5
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.0	1.9	2.1	-4.8
Nondurable Goods	92.3	93.1	93.0	-0.8
Food & Kindred Products	22.9	23.5	23.6	-3.0
Meat Products	5.0	5.1	5.8	-13.8
Beverages	4.1	4.2	3.9	5.1
Other Food & Kindred (Inc. 202-207)	9.1	9.4	9.1	0.0
Textile Mill, Apparel	9.0	9.0	8.9	1.1
Paper & Allied Products	9.0	9.0	9.1	-1.1
Printing & Publishing	26.6	26.8	26.6	0.0
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.8	13.9	13.9	-0.7
Rubber & Miscellaneous Plastics	8.4	8.3	8.5	-1.2

Industry	Sept. 1993	August** 1993	Sept. 1992	Percent Change Sept. 1992-Sept. 1993
Service Producing	1,782.8	1,769.9	1,781.0	0.1
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	98.9	97.2	100.2	-1.3
Transportation	55.6	53.7	56.4	-1.4
Railroad Transportation	3.6	3.6	3.7	-2.7
Trucking & Warehousing	27.2	27.1	28.4	-4.2
Communications & Utilities	43.3	43.5	43.8	-1.1
Communications	26.9	27.0	27.5	-2.2
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	16.4	16.5	16.3	0.6
Trade	502.4	505.9	508.3	-1.2
Wholesale Trade	99.9	99.9	104.0	-3.9
Retail Trade	402.5	406.0	404.3	-0.4
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	18.4	18.8	17.4	5.7
General Merchandise Stores	40.3	40.3	40.1	0.5
Food Stores	64.8	65.0	64.6	0.3
Eating & Drinking Places	136.0	138.5	135.5	0.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	129.1	130.0	128.8	0.2
Finance	58.7	59.0	57.5	2.1
Depository Institutions	40.4	40.6	40.0	1.0
Commercial Banks	26.7	26.8	26.7	0.0
Insurance	37.0	37.4	37.2	-0.5
Insurance Carriers	24.6	24.9	24.7	-0.4
Real Estate	33.4	33.6	34.1	-2.1
Services	640.4	642.6	637.8	0.4
Business Services	133.4	132.3	132.9	0.4
Health Services	174.4	174.6	170.6	2.2
Hospitals	81.4	81.5	80.5	1.1
Legal Services	15.5	15.6	15.7	-1.3
Educational Services	36.6	32.9	35.8	2.2
Private Colleges, Universities	20.1	18.8	19.8	1.5
Total Government	412.0	394.2	405.9	1.5
Total Federal Government	134.3	135.1	135.0	-0.5
Department of Defense	41.8	42.4	42.6	-1.9
Other Federal Government	92.5	92.7	92.4	0.1
Total State & Local Government	277.7	259.1	270.9	2.5
Total State Government	92.4	89.6	89.7	3.0
State Education	32.8	29.7	29.9	9.7
Other State Government	59.6	59.9	59.8	-0.3
Total Local Government	185.3	169.5	181.2	2.3
Local Education	110.5	88.8	106.6	3.7
Other Local Government	74.8	80.7	74.6	0.3

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding and exclusion of some SIC's.

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

**Estimates are revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--SEPTEMBER 1993

Industry	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	Sept. 1993	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1993	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1993	Aug. 1993**	Sept. 1993	Aug. 1993**
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,076.3	1,077.7	757.5	746.7	91.2	90.0	148.1	149.3
Goods Producing	162.8	164.3	82.1	83.1	20.5	20.6	29.8	30.2
Mining	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2
Construction	54.7	55.6	48.9	49.7	4.5	4.5	7.7	7.8
Manufacturing	107.9	108.5	33.0	33.2	15.3	15.4	21.9	22.2
Durable Goods	54.8	54.8	16.0	16.1	6.7	6.7	8.3	8.3
Nondurable Goods	53.1	53.7	17.0	17.1	8.6	8.7	13.6	13.9
Service Producing	913.5	913.4	675.4	663.6	70.7	69.4	118.3	119.1
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	53.7	52.8	31.2	31.0	5.0	5.0	8.6	8.4
Trade	250.3	250.4	186.7	187.0	24.3	24.2	40.0	42.6
Wholesale Trade	60.8	60.7	29.3	29.6	4.8	4.8	5.9	6.0
Retail Trade	189.5	189.7	157.4	157.4	19.5	19.4	34.1	36.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	73.3	73.6	46.2	46.1	3.2	3.2	5.2	5.6
Services	333.6	334.6	246.7	246.0	22.9	22.8	36.8	37.2
Total Government	202.6	202.0	164.6	153.5	15.3	14.2	27.7	25.3
Federal	48.7	49.0	74.0	75.0	1.7	1.8	7.1	7.2
State	64.6	64.6	16.5	16.4	4.7	4.3	5.7	4.9
Local	89.3	88.4	74.1	62.1	8.9	8.1	14.9	13.2

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

**Estimates are revised.

Selected data below the major industry level is available upon request. Estimates are also available for Baltimore City.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES
SEPTEMBER 1993

Industry	Average Weekly Hours		Average Weekly Earnings		Average Hourly Earnings	
	Sept. 1993	August 1993	Sept. 1993	August 1993	Sept. 1993	August 1993
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	41.0	41.2	$531.36	$524.89	$12.96	$12.74
Durable Goods	42.5	42.5	584.38	580.98	13.75	13.67
Lumber and Wood Products	39.0	39.4	356.85	356.57	9.15	9.05
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	43.5	45.5	524.61	553.28	12.06	12.16
Primary Metal Industries	45.9	45.2	815.64	801.40	17.77	17.73
Fabricated Metals	42.7	42.6	489.77	482.23	11.47	11.32
Industrial Machinery	42.3	45.0	595.58	637.20	14.08	14.16
Electronic Equipment	41.7	41.4	491.64	490.59	11.79	11.85
Transportation Equipment	44.2	40.1	750.96	674.88	16.99	16.83
Instruments and Related Products	40.6	40.0	578.55	566.00	14.25	14.15
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	38.4	40.0	393.60	400.00	10.25	10.00
Nondurable Goods	39.9	40.2	491.17	482.40	12.31	12.00
Food and Kindred Products	41.1	41.7	469.36	469.96	11.42	11.27
Textile Mill, Apparel	36.5	35.7	294.56	278.82	8.07	7.81
Paper and Allied Products	39.5	41.9	553.00	538.83	14.00	12.86
Printing and Publishing	38.5	37.3	564.03	537.12	14.65	14.40
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.1	42.5	568.35	559.30	13.50	13.16
Rubber and Plastic Products	41.0	42.2	442.80	451.54	10.80	10.70
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	41.1	41.4	$562.66	$555.59	$13.69	$13.42
Durable Goods -	42.5	42.5	627.30	621.35	14.76	14.62
Nondurable Goods	39.9	40.5	507.53	500.58	12.72	12.36

NOTE: Data are not seasonally adjusted.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	September 1993	August 1993	September 1992
Initial Claims	17,550	14,922	25,087
Weeks Claimed	163,557	202,356	218,784
First Payments	6,382	10,145	8,046
Final Payments	1,228	1,177	1,808
Weeks Paid	128,127	163,089	173,331
Net Benefit Amount	$23,218,969	$29,637,755	$31,433,477
Average Check Amount	$181.22	$181.73	$181.35

Following a sharp decline in August, initial claims filings headed back up in September, advancing by just over 2,600, or by about 17.0 percent, to 17,550. September's gain was due, in part, to the fact that the statistics are based on a five week filing period compared to August's base of four weeks. Filing activity rose across the four regions. In each region except the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, it seemed as if one office, in particular, posted a significant increase in filing activity. In the D.C. Area, almost two-thirds of the regional upturn centered in Prince George's County where layoffs in business services, construction and wholesale trade fueled the increase. Western Maryland's upturn resulted largely from temporary layoffs in Garrett County's manufacturing industry while, in the Balance of State Area, seasonal filings at the Snow Hill office pushed up the regional total.

While initial counts were higher, the number of both weeks claimed and weeks paid declined over the month. A drop of about 19.0 percent in the number of weeks claimed reduced September's count to a 1993 low of 163,557. Just over 78.0 percent of all weeks filed for resulted in compensation. Of the 128,127 weeks paid during September, 5.0 percent represented first payments and final payments, at 1,228, accounted for about 1.0 percent of all compensated weeks. Benefit exhaustions, while rising slightly over the month, were more than 30.0 percent below year ago figures and the second lowest to date in 1993.

For those claimants receiving benefits during September, weekly checks averaged $181.22, only slightly lower than last month's entitlement. With about 35,000 fewer weeks paid in September, the monthly outlay from the UI Trust Fund was reduced by about $6.4 million to an estimated $23.2 million.

REGIONAL INDICATORS
SEPTEMBER 1993

	BMA	DC Suburbs	Western Maryland	Balance of State
Initial Claims	8,894	4,588	1,890	2,107
Weeks Claimed	84,752	36,826	10,381	11,634
First Payments	3,427	1,499	401	514
Final Payments	691	259	36	89
Weeks Paid	69,085	30,036	8,651	9,340
Net Benefit Amount	$12,445,188	$5,703,357	$1,420,086	$1,496,761
Average Check Amount	$180.14	$189.88	$164.15	$160.25

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